

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 142

Introduced by Assembly Member Nunez

April 6, 2006

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 142—Relative to Marco Antonio Firebaugh.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 142, as introduced, Nunez. Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange.

This measure would designate the Interstate 5 and Interstate 710 interchange in Los Angeles County as the Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange.

This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, at the age of 39 years,
2 was running for the California State Senate when he succumbed
3 to health ailments on March 21, 2006, at the University of
4 California, Los Angeles Medical Center; and

5 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was born to humble
6 beginnings in Tijuana, Mexico on October 13, 1966, and
7 immigrated to the United States when he was a young boy; and

8 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh worked hard to pay his
9 own way through school and earned his bachelor of arts degree in

1 political science from the University of California, Berkeley and
2 a law degree from the UCLA School of Law; and

3 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was the first in his
4 family to attend college and was committed to the notion that
5 free universal public education is the cornerstone of our
6 democratic society and worked hard to improve educational
7 opportunities for all California students; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2005, the City of Lynwood named their newest
9 school the “Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School” as a result of
10 Mr. Firebaugh’s record of achievement in providing educational
11 opportunities for all students; and

12 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was elected into the
13 California State Assembly at the young age of 32 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh served in the
15 California State Assembly from 1998 to 2004, representing the
16 50th Assembly District located in southeast Los Angeles County;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the Assembly, Marco
19 Antonio Firebaugh was recognized for his impressive legislative
20 and advocacy record on behalf of California’s working families
21 and their children, establishing him as a leader and role model in
22 the Latino community; and

23 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh demonstrated
24 outstanding leadership in introducing legislation aimed at
25 improving the lives of immigrants and low-income families
26 including undocumented immigrants who come to California to
27 work and give their children a better life; and

28 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh recognized the
29 importance of environmental justice issues and authored air
30 quality legislation that provides funding for the state’s most
31 important air emissions reductions programs and that ensures that
32 state funding be targeted to low-income communities that are
33 most severely impacted by air pollution; and

34 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh recognized the need to
35 protect the health of the most vulnerable members of our
36 state—children. As a result, he authored legislation funding a
37 mobile asthma treatment clinic known as a Breathmobile to
38 provide free screenings and treatment for school children in
39 southeast Los Angeles and fought hard in the Legislature to make
40 California the first state to outlaw smoking in a vehicle carrying

1 young children to protect them from the hazards created by
2 breathing secondhand smoke; and

3 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh understood that
4 education is the great equalizer; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2002, Marco Antonio Firebaugh won a great
6 victory with the passage of Assembly Bill 540, landmark
7 legislation allowing undocumented California high school
8 students to pursue a college education and pay in-state tuition
9 fees; and

10 WHEREAS, From 2002 to 2004, Marco Antonio Firebaugh
11 served as Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus
12 where he was responsible for managing the development of the
13 Latino Caucus' annual Agenda for California's Working
14 Families as a policy document that focuses on issues affecting
15 California's diverse population; and

16 WHEREAS, Under Marco Antonio Firebaugh's stewardship
17 the Latino Caucus grew from 22 to 27 members; and

18 WHEREAS, While chairing the Latino Caucus, Marco
19 Antonio Firebaugh led the effort to appoint more qualified
20 Latinos and Latinas to high-level positions in state government,
21 including the appointment of only the second Latino to serve on
22 the California Supreme Court, the first Latina to serve as
23 Chancellor of a University of California campus, and two
24 additional Latino Presidents at the California State University at
25 Fresno and Sacramento; and

26 WHEREAS, Because of his effectiveness both as a
27 policymaker and political leader, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was
28 appointed Majority Floor Leader in 2002; and

29 WHEREAS, Alongside former Speaker Herb J. Wesson Jr.,
30 Marco Antonio Firebaugh served as Floor Leader from 2002 to
31 2004, making him the highest ranking Latino in the Assembly
32 and one of the chief negotiators for Assembly Democrats; and

33 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh also served six years
34 on the State Allocation Board, which provides funding for public
35 school construction and modernization; and

36 WHEREAS, During his tenure on the State Allocation Board,
37 California invested more than \$16 billion in the construction and
38 modernization of public schools making it the largest investment
39 in public school improvements in the history of the state; and

1 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was a visiting
2 Professor and Policy Fellow at the UCLA School of Medicine,
3 Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture; and

4 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh is survived by his two
5 children Ariana and Nicolas Firebaugh, and his mother, Carmen
6 Rose Garcia, and many beloved family members and friends;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
9 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
10 Interstate 5 and Interstate 710 interchange in the County of Los
11 Angeles as the “Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange”; and be
12 it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
14 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
15 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this
16 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
17 sources covering the cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
19 copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and
20 to the author for appropriate distribution.